

City of Norfolk  
Building Construction Services Division Policy  
Elect-04-001

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters

This policy is set out to clarify the requirement for arc fault circuit interrupters. Section E3802 of the International Residential Code 2000 edition and subsequent supplements, reference Arc Fault Circuit protection. The accumulative supplement in Section E3802.9 states in part, “*All branch circuits that supply 125 volt, single phase, 15 or 20 ampere receptacle outlets installed in bedrooms shall be protected by an arc fault interrupter(s).*”

Article 210-12 of the National Electrical Code 1999 edition states in part, “*All branch circuits that supply 125 volt, single phase, 15 or 20 ampere receptacle outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by an arc fault interrupter(s).*”

Therefore, arc fault protection is required in bedrooms for all new construction in buildings that includes dwelling units and buildings that include R-3, R-4, and R-5 occupancies.

However, if the design was *substantially complete* before October 1, 2003, the applicant may request permission to use the CABO 1996 edition and avoid installing Arc fault protection.

Section 107 of the Uniform Statewide Building Code of Virginia states in part, “*Construction for which a permit application is submitted to the building official after October 1, 2003 shall comply with the provisions of this code, except when construction documents for proposed construction were substantially complete prior to the above date and a permit application is submitted to the building official within one year after the above date.*

*In such cases, construction shall comply with either the provisions of this code or the provisions of this code in effect immediately prior to October 1, 2003.”*

This exemption expires October 1, 2004. If the applicant chooses this option, the plans must be designed for CABO 1996 edition and the plans identified with a stamp indicating CABO '96 design.